

STRATHMERTON SCHOOL HONOR BOARD.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

There was a very large attendance at the Strathmerton State-school on Monday afternoon last, when a handsome honor board, which has been erected in the school to perpetuate the memory of some 33 past scholars of the school who fought in the Great War, was unveiled by Mr J. D. Mitchell, M.L.A. Amongst the visitors were Crs. Thos Thornton and W. A. Campbell and Mr E. Cope, J.P. The arrangements for the ceremony were well made by the school committee and Mr T. E. Taylor, head teacher.

The board is a very fine one of solid oak. The names of the 33 soldiers appear in gold letters, and those of the nine soldiers who laid down their lives in the defence of their country are specially indicated. It was announced that six more names are to be included by the committee at an early date, and when that is done the board will bear a full record of Strathmerton school scholars who proved their heroism and devotion to their Empire in a time of national crisis.

Cr. A. Meiklejohn said he was particularly glad that the school had been chosen as the reposing place of the board, which would be a constant reminder to the children for generations to come of the noble deeds performed by their predecessors in the school.

Cr. Thornton hoped that the memories of the boys whose names were inscribed on the board would live for ever in the hearts of the Strathmerton district people, and that the children would always treasure the board as the most valuable possession of the school. The board would not only perpetuate the memories of those who had gone and, he was glad to say, had been spared to return, but also the memories of the brave lads who had given their lives for their country.

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Cr. Campbell impressed upon the children the importance of receiving as full an education as possible, in order that they might be the better fitted to make their way in life. He was proud to be present to pay a tribute of honor to the boys who had gone out to help keep this country free.

Mr E. Cope said that although he had left Strathmerton to reside in Numurkah he would always retain a keen interest in the district in which he had spent so many years of his life. He treasured the associations of that district. His three daughters and two boys had been educated at the Strathmerton school, and the gathering that day had a special interest for him, in that one of the names appearing on the roll was that of his youngest son, who had fallen on the field of battle. They could, he was sure, appreciate his feelings on an occasion of this kind, but he felt that the sacrifice his son had made had not been in vain, for Britain and her Allies had emerged triumphant from the fight they had entered in defence of liberty and justice.

Mr J. D. Mitchell received a very cordial welcome, and delivered a speech that was most favorably commented upon by those present. Mr Mitchell's address was strongly Imperialistic in tone, and he impressed upon the large gathering the need for combating those who would "cut the painter" from Britain. He likened the British Empire to a giant tree, the roots and trunk being the British Isles, and the branches the dominions overseas. Whatever injured the trunk injured the branches also, and it was a recognition of this, as well as inherent love of the Old Country, that had impelled the Dominion soldiers to rally in their tens of thousands when the life of the parent was threatened. Australia had emerged from the war as a nation, and it was the duty of every citizen to do his and her very best to bring this great Commonwealth to the position she should occupy in the world.

Commonwealth to the position she should occupy in the world of nations. He had very great pleasure in unveiling the board to the honor of the Strathmerton soldiers who had so nobly justified their manhood, and he hoped that the list would be an inspiration to all true citizens of the Empire.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the visitors at the instance of Messrs J. S. Baglin and F. Pinnuck, and dainty refreshments provided by the ladies were greatly enjoyed by the assemblage.

The closing act in a very pleasing ceremony was performed by Cr. Campbell, who freely distributed lollies amongst the children.